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10/676,000	10/02/2003	Marwan Qubti	2544-0404	7801

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DAVIDSON BERQUIST JACKSON & GOWDEY LLP
4300 WILSON BLVD., 7TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22203

EXAMINER

ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2165

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/676,000	Applicant(s) QUBTI ET AL.	
	Examiner Neveen Abel-Jalil	Art Unit 2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/21/2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 15-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. The Amendment filed on February 21, 2007 has been received and entered. Claims 1-20 are pending.
2. Applicant's Amendment has overcome the previous claim objections, and part of rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, and 112, second paragraph.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities:
Claim 8, recite "to containing" in line 6 which is not proper grammatically. The recitation of "to" does not match the proper verb tense following it. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.
5. Claims 1, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are software per se only since they raise the question to whether the table, interface routine, and modules would all reasonably be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Applicant's disclosure as potentially being software routines. If so, the claims includes an embodiment directed to software, per se, since the claimed

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system lacks inclusion of the hardware necessary for any of the underlying functionality to be realized. Software or program needs to be stored on a medium and/ or executed by a computer. For those claims to be statutory, at least one of the elements in the body of the claim must include hardware in accordance with the disclosure. Although the applicant has amended the claims to include "computer" in the preamble, the elements of the claim remain to be software only implementation and missing a hardware component (i.e. processor, database, and/or GUI).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said system" in the very last sentence of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It should be "said computer system" instead.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the creation" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the network" in the second to last sentence of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It should be "the computer network" instead.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, and 5-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shea et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0197952 A1) in view of Shah et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0086356 A1).

As to claim 1, Shea et al. discloses a computer system with a database application operating on a computer and communicating with other computers via a network, comprising:

a table of fields (See Shea et al. Figure 21, Database Tables), including:

a task identification field to provide a unique item identification associated with an open item (See Shea et al. page 7, paragraph 0084, and see Shea et al. page 8, paragraph 0090);

personnel identification fields to identify personnel involved in the task, including at least an originator of the task (See Figure 21, shows field labeled "author" reading on "originator");

a text field to provide comments regarding the task (See Shea et al. Figure 23);

a status field to indicate a current status of the task, said status field including a status indicating closure of the task, said closure status being access restricted to said personnel other

than the originator (See Shea et al. Figures 16, and 18-19, shows task status, enabled or disabled);

a graphical user interface routine to create a graphical user interface by the other computers and including interface window data corresponding to the task identification, personnel identification, text, and status fields in the table (See Shea et al. Figures 18, 19, shows management of subscription interface);

and a notification engine to automatically notify at least one personnel other than the originator when the task is created and at least the originator when the status of the task is altered thereafter (See Shea et al. Figure 5, S240, also see Shea et al. Figure 14, shows notice data creation example for each task).

Shea et al. teaches the claimed invention except for wherein said system mandates that the originator is the only one authorized to close and end a task.

Shah et al. teaches wherein said system mandates that the originator is the only one authorized to close and end a task (See Shah et al. page 4, paragraph 0051, and see Shah et al. page 5, paragraph 0068).

Shah et al. teaches wherein said system mandates that the originator is the only one authorized to close and end a task.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shea et al. by the teachings of Shah et al. to include wherein said system mandates that the originator is the only one authorized to close and end a task because it allows for consistency and provide for secure access to content (See Shah et al. paragraph 0027).

As to claim 5, Shea et al. as modified discloses including a feedback software routine to prompt the task originators to approve and close business tasks that they had originated (See Shea et al. Figure 28, shows approval of tasks).

As to claim 6, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the status field is modification-enabled only to the originator and system administrators (See Shea et al. Figure 16, shows roles and permissions, also see Shea et al. page 8, paragraph 0093).

As to claim 7, Shea et al. as modified discloses including a network access software routine to interface the data receiving system with a network (See Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 8, Shea et al. discloses a computer network application to process tasks through a business environment via a network, the network application operating in conjunction with a database application on a computer database, comprising:

a database interface to coordinate the creation of a database table having relational fields (See Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0055, also see Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0061) including:

a unique task identifier field containing a database-defined unique identifier for each new task entered into the database that is unique from all other identifiers of all other tasks (See Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0143, also see Shea et al. Figure 29);

an originator field containing a unique identifier for an originator of said task (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”);

a statement of task field to contain a textual statement corresponding to said task (See Shea et al. Figures 13-14, shows task description);

a responsible entity field to contain a unique identifier for an entity responsible for said task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0114-0117);

said unique task identifier field keyed to said originator field, said statement of task field, and said responsible entity field (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”);

a module to interface selected database information to a network (See Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0055, also see Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0061); and

a notification engine to automatically create a notification to the responsible entity via the module and the network of the creation of a task keyed to the responsible entity in the responsible entity field, and to automatically create a notification to the originator via the module and the network of the completion of the task by the responsible entity (See Shea et al. Figure 5, S240, also see Shea et al. Figure 14, shows notice data creation example for each task).

Shea et al. teaches the claimed invention expect for wherein only the originator is authorized to close and end a task.

Shah et al. teaches wherein only the originator is authorized to close and end a task (See Shah et al. page 4, paragraph 0051, and see Shah et al. page 5, paragraph 0068).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shea et al. by the teachings of Shah et al. to include wherein only the originator is authorized to close and end a task because it allows for consistency and provide

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for secure access to content (See Shah et al. paragraph 0027).

As to claim 9, Shea et al. as modified discloses including a search engine tied to the database table to provide searchable entries for currently open tasks, for a given originator (See Shea et al. Figure 19, 1800, shows “search” button).

As to claim 10, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the origination field includes:
an originator field to contain a unique identifier for an originator of said task (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”); and

an originator group field automatically identifying, based on said originator field, a supervisor of a workgroup including the originator of said task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0117-0119) ;

the table (See Shea et al. Figure 21, Database Tables) further including:
a statement of task field to contain a textual statement corresponding to said task (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”); and

a responsible entity field to contain a unique identifier for an entity responsible for said task (See Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0147);

said unique task identifier field keyed to said originator field, said statement of task field, and said responsible entity field (See Shea et al. page 8, paragraph 0090, also see Shea et al. page 11, paragraph 0130).

As to claim 11, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the notification engine creates

(1) a first graphical user interface automatically created and communicated to the supervisor via the module whenever an originator creates a new task, said first graphical user interface including said relational fields corresponding to the new task and tools to approve, modify, or reject the new task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0116-0118, also see Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0142-0143);

(2) unless the supervisor rejects the new task, a second graphical user interface automatically created and communicated to the entity responsible for the new task via the module, said second graphical user interface including said relational fields corresponding to the new task and tools to report on status and progress of said new task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0116-0118, also see Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0142-0143).

As to claim 12, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the database further includes a second table containing administrative information to automatically populate the originator field, originator group field, and responsible entity field based on predefined selection options (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraph 0120, also see Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0143).

As to claim 13, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein:

the database table further includes a priority field to identify a priority level of said task, and a due date field to identify a due data associated with the task (See Shea et al. page 9, paragraphs 00104-0106); and

wherein the notification engine further provides an automatic email notification to the originator at a set time relative to the due date (See Shea et al. page 6, paragraph 0068).

As to claim 14, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the database table further includes a responsible subgroup identification field and an originating subgroup identification field to identify, respectively, a subgroup within the workgroup including the originator (See Shea et al. Figure 14, also see Shea et al. Figures 18-19, all show assignments, roles, organization structure).

Alternatively, the claims are rejected under:

10. Claims 1, and 5-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shea et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0197952 A1) in view of Carpenter et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0097273 A1).

As to claim 1, Shea et al. discloses a computer system with a database application operating on a computer and communicating with other computers via a network, comprising:

a table of fields (See Shea et al. Figure 21, Database Tables), including:

a task identification field to provide a unique item identification associated with an open item (See Shea et al. page 7, paragraph 0084, and see Shea et al. page 8, paragraph 0090);

personnel identification fields to identify personnel involved in the task, including at least an originator of the task (See Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”);

a text field to provide comments regarding the task (See Shea et al. Figure 23);

a status field to indicate a current status of the task, said status field including a status indicating closure of the task, said closure status being access restricted to said personnel other than the originator (See Shea et al. Figures 16, and 18-19, shows task status, enabled or disabled);

a graphical user interface routine to create a graphical user interface by the other computers and including interface window data corresponding to the task identification, personnel identification, text, and status fields in the table (See Shea et al. Figures 18, 19, shows management of subscription interface);

and a notification engine to automatically notify at least one personnel other than the originator when the task is created and at least the originator when the status of the task is altered thereafter (See Shea et al. Figure 5, S240, also see Shea et al. Figure 14, shows notice data creation example for each task).

Shea et al. teaches the claimed invention except for wherein said system mandates that the originator is the only one authorized to close and end a task.

Carpenter et al. teaches wherein said system mandates that the originator is the only one authorized to close and end a task (See Carpenter et al. page 6, paragraph 0131, lines 16-33).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shea et al. by the teachings of Carpenter et al. to include wherein said system mandates that the originator is the only one authorized to close and end a task because it allows for consistency and provide for secure access to content (See Carpenter et al. page 2, paragraph 28).

As to claim 5, Shea et al. as modified discloses including a feedback software routine to prompt the task originators to approve and close business tasks that they had originated (See Shea et al. Figure 28, shows approval of tasks).

As to claim 6, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the status field is modification-enabled only to the originator and system administrators (See Shea et al. Figure 16, shows roles and permissions, also see Shea et al. page 8, paragraph 0093).

As to claim 7, Shea et al. as modified discloses including a network access software routine to interface the data receiving system with a network (See Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 8, Shea et al. discloses a computer network application to process tasks through a business environment via a network, the network application operating in conjunction with a database application on a computer database, comprising:

a database interface to coordinate the creation of a database table having relational fields (See Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0055, also see Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0061) including:

a unique task identifier field containing a database-defined unique identifier for each new task entered into the database that is unique from all other identifiers of all other tasks (See Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0143, also see Shea et al. Figure 29);

an originator field containing a unique identifier for an originator of said task (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”);

a statement of task field to contain a textual statement corresponding to said task (See Shea et al. Figures 13-14, shows task description);

a responsible entity field to contain a unique identifier for an entity responsible for said task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0114-0117);

said unique task identifier field keyed to said originator field, said statement of task field, and said responsible entity field (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”);

a module to interface selected database information to a network (See Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0055, also see Shea et al. page 5, paragraph 0061); and

a notification engine to automatically create a notification to the responsible entity via the module and the network of the creation of a task keyed to the responsible entity in the responsible entity field, and to automatically create a notification to the originator via the module and the network of the completion of the task by the responsible entity (See Shea et al. Figure 5, S240, also see Shea et al. Figure 14, shows notice data creation example for each task).

Shea et al. teaches the claimed invention expect for wherein only the originator is authorized to close and end a task.

Carpenter et al. teaches wherein only the originator is authorized to close and end a task (See Carpenter et al. page 6, paragraph 0131, lines 16-33).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shea et al. by the teachings of Carpenter et al. to wherein only the originator is authorized to close and end a task because it allows for consistency and provide for.

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secure access to content (See Carpenter et al. page 2, paragraph 28).

As to claim 9, Shea et al. as modified discloses including a search engine tied to the database table to provide searchable entries for currently open tasks, for a given originator (See Shea et al. Figure 19, 1800, shows “search” button).

As to claim 10, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the origination field includes:
an originator field to contain a unique identifier for an originator of said task (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”); and

an originator group field automatically identifying, based on said originator field, a supervisor of a workgroup including the originator of said task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0117-0119);

the table (See Shea et al. Figure 21, Database Tables) further including:
a statement of task field to contain a textual statement corresponding to said task (See Shea et al. Figure 21, shows field labeled “author” reading on “originator”); and
a responsible entity field to contain a unique identifier for an entity responsible for said task (See Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0147);

said unique task identifier field keyed to said originator field, said statement of task field, and said responsible entity field (See Shea et al. page 8, paragraph 0090, also see Shea et al. page 11, paragraph 0130).

As to claim 11, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the notification engine creates

(1) a first graphical user interface automatically created and communicated to the supervisor via the module whenever an originator creates a new task, said first graphical user interface including said relational fields corresponding to the new task and tools to approve, modify, or reject the new task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0116-0118, also see Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0142-0143);

(2) unless the supervisor rejects the new task, a second graphical user interface automatically created and communicated to the entity responsible for the new task via the module, said second graphical user interface including said relational fields corresponding to the new task and tools to report on status and progress of said new task (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraphs 0116-0118, also see Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0142-0143).

As to claim 12, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the database further includes a second table containing administrative information to automatically populate the originator field, originator group field, and responsible entity field based on predefined selection options (See Shea et al. page 10, paragraph 0120, also see Shea et al. page 12, paragraph 0143).

As to claim 13, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein:

the database table further includes a priority field to identify a priority level of said task, and a due date field to identify a due data associated with the task (See Shea et al. page 9, paragraphs 00104-0106); and

wherein the notification engine further provides an automatic email notification to the originator at a set time relative to the due date (See Shea et al. page 6, paragraph 0068).

As to claim 14, Shea et al. as modified discloses wherein the database table further includes a responsible subgroup identification field and an originating subgroup identification field to identify, respectively, a subgroup within the workgroup including the originator (See Shea et al. Figure 14, also see Shea et al. Figures 18-19, all show assignments, roles, organization structure).

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Although no rejections in view of prior art are made with respect to claims 2-4, and 15-20, no claims in this application will be indicated as allowable until after a response to this action has been reviewed, as to the fact that certain changes may not produce allowable claims.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

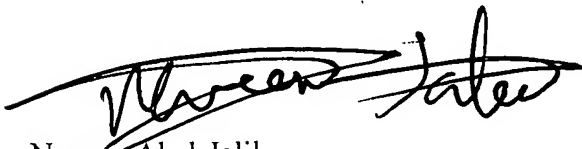
Fredell et al. (U.S. Patent No: 6,678,698 B2) teaches task oriented project management system managed by project manager.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naveen Abel-Jalil', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Naveen Abel-Jalil
March 22, 2007